NAP stress on some crops

†595. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATUR VEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the National Agriculture Policy all stress has been laid on some crops like wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and ground nut and no attention has been given to eco-friendly crops in the country; and

(b) the schemes formulated or under consideration for development of good quality seeds of these local crops, their publicity, storage and distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The National Agriculture Policy envisages at a sustainable growth in excess of 4% per annum in the agriculture sector through efficient use of resources and conservation of soil, water and bio-diversity. Balanced and conjunctive use of bio-mass, organic and inorganic fertilizers and controlled use of agro chemicals through integrated nutrients and pest management are being promoted to achieve the sustainable growth in agriculture sector. The country is bestowed with diverse agro-climatic conditions favourable for the cultivation of diverse crops like foodgrains crops, commercial crops, horticulture, plantation, spices, trees, etc. and accordingly, schemes/programmes are formulated. To promote crop diversification from cereal to non-cereal crops, an Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 2004. National Horticulture Mission is being implemented since the year 2005 for ensuring end to end approach with backward and forward linkages covering research, post harvest management, processing and marketing. A new centrally-sponsored Scheme the National Bamboo Mission, was approved during 2006 to bring in additional area under bamboo in the forest and non-forest area. To encourage eco-friendly crops, a National Project on Organic farming has also been taken up for production, promotion, certification and development of organic farming in the country.

(b) Government has made concerted efforts to make quality seeds available to the farmers. In this connection a National Seeds Plan has been prepared for all major crops including a seed production system to form a continuous chain within the cycle. A Central sector scheme titled as Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds is being implemented with the components, namely (i) Transport Subsidy on Movement of Seeds; (ii) Establishment and Maintenance of Seed Bank; (iii) Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds—National Seeds Research and Training Centre, Varanasi; (iv) Seed Village Scheme; (v) Assistance for Creation of Infrastructure Facilities in Public Sector; (vi) Assistance for Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector; (vii) Human Resource Development; (viii) Assistance for Seed Export; (ix) Use of Biotechnology in Agriculture; and (x) Promoting Hybrid Seeds.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.